

# Army Basing Update for Amesbury and Tidworth Area Boards - July 2018

## Background

*The government's Army Basing announcement in March 2013 advised of around 4,300 extra Service personnel moving to Wiltshire by the end of the decade. They will be accompanied by their families, bringing the total number of additional people estimated to be moving to the area to 7,600. These plans will require additional levels of infrastructure and services to be provided by Wiltshire Council. The MOD has since reviewed the figures as the relocations draw nearer and now expect the net addition of Service personnel to total 4,000. Accordingly the expected net increase in population will be a little over 7,000.*

**Service Family Accommodation (SFA):** Work has commenced by Lovell on the SFA build programme. Its HQ is based at the former Corunna Barracks site in Ludgershall. The MOD will ensure there will be sufficient houses available in the summer 2019 to accommodate all personnel with children returning from Germany. Much of the highways work to provide access has completed, though there are some "off-site" works still to be undertaken to increase junction capacity in the vicinity.

**Bulford and Ludgershall** - The individual plots at Bulford and Ludgershall are now clearly visible with foundations and footing completed for many of the houses. A significant number of timber frame kits, manufactured off site, have been delivered and put in place. The first houses will be ready in the New Year.

**Larkhill** - Planning permission for Larkhill's final phase was granted on 4 May 2018. As planning permission was re-submitted, the programme for these houses will not finally complete until the summer of 2020. Nevertheless, good progress is being made. A temporary construction access has been created off the A345 opposite Clover Lane, which reduces the number of heavy vehicles on The Packway.

**"Behind the Wire" Build:** This proceeds at pace and progress is clearly visible at Larkhill and Perham Down from roads adjacent to the camps. In all, approximately 2,500 bed spaces for single soldiers and the construction of around 130 new buildings including headquarters, offices, garages, workshops and mess facilities is in hand. A further 120 refurbishments, extensions, alterations and demolitions will also be completed. Many buildings have already been handed over to the MOD by Aspire Defence. The programme is creating a significant number of jobs in Wiltshire and Hampshire, as well as training opportunities, including apprenticeships, as more than 1,000 construction workers are set to be on site at the peak of the development.

**School's Build Programme:** St Michael's Primary School at Larkhill progresses to plan and will be ready by the start of September 2018. The contract for the extension to Avon Valley College has been delayed following recent surveys which may require some further site preparation, prior to the main construction work commencing. The additional school building will complete within 12 months of starting construction. Planning permission for the new primary school at Ludgershall was granted on 16 March 2018 and that for extending Wellington Academy (WA) on 10 May 2018. The contractors have been selected. Midas secured the Wellington Academy work with Dawnus being appointed to build the new primary school which is to be called 'Wellington Eagle Primary Academy'. Dawnus have undertaken some preliminary site investigation works on the Ludgershall school site to better understand the extent of ground conditions and main works are due to commence on both projects at the end of July 2018 with completion forecast in August 2019 in good time for the arrival of families under the ABP.

**Additional Schools Funding:** The Department for Education announced an additional £2.8 million package to pay for school teachers, support staff and equipment for those schools that will experience a sudden large increase in pupils as a result of the Army Basing Programme. The current system to allocate funds delivers funds up to a year after

new pupils arrive, as it uses a retrospective census system. Wiltshire Council and the local MP (Claire Perry) persuaded the Government that this was a unique situation and that without the additional funds, schools would face difficulty in recruiting sufficient new staff to cater for the increased number of pupils. Wiltshire Council is working with the Head-teachers of the schools affected to allocate the welcomed additional funds.

**Learning opportunities for Army Spouses:** Wiltshire Council has worked with Wiltshire College and the Army to initiate a new learning programme that is designed to equip families moving into, and currently residing in, Wiltshire with skills required to fill likely job vacancies in the Salisbury Plain area that will exist in late 2019. Local employers have been surveyed to establish the skills required for jobs arising in 2019. A good return was achieved. Using this information, a survey has been issued to families, to determine interest in the jobs in 2019, their level of qualifications, preferred working locations and patterns and to assess their appetite for bespoke training to be delivered by Wiltshire College. If successful, this will provide employers with a rich pool of talent to fill vacancies and to aid integration of military families in the area.

**“One Year Out”:** The MOD has launched a publicity campaign detailing plans it will put in place to welcome the 4,000 Service personnel and their families arriving in 2019. This will include a number of activities and events in the area. It will also provide details on a visit by Wiltshire Council, Wiltshire College and the NHS to Germany in September to meet the families and provide advice and information on moving to Wiltshire. The visit will include talks and surgeries on schools in the Salisbury Plain area, school applications, job opportunities, health facilities, leisure activities and what Wiltshire has to offer.

**Life Skills and Jobs Fair 20 June 2018:** The Fair was a huge success with over 300 Service personnel attending at the Tidworth Garrison Theatre. The fairs, which are normally held annually, provide Service personnel information on transitioning into civilian life on leaving the Armed Forces. The MOD recognises that its personnel need to think about this far in advance of their leaving dates, so they are open to all Service staff, not just those about to leave. However, in addition employers seeking to attract those leaving the Service in the near future were present.

**Road Improvements:** Essential road improvements which will increase the road capacities are being undertaken under the ABP at Tidworth, Bulford, Ludgershall and Larkhill. Further work to provide access to St. Michael’s school and complete surfacing of the roundabout will take place in late-summer 2018. Three planning applications for junction improvements in Tidworth have been submitted recently: **18/03728/FUL** - Pennings Rd /Ordnance Rd and **18/03836/FUL** - Pennings Rd/Ludgershall Rd which were both approved with conditions on 6 July and **18/03716/FUL** - Park Rd / Pennings Rd / Station Rd / Lahore Rd, due to be considered at the Strategic Planning Committee on 18 July. The Army Basing Team will produce travel notices as the work gets closer and has asked for local communities’ forbearance as work gets underway. Queries on local traffic management should be directed to [DIO-ABPSPTARoadworks@mod.uk](mailto:ABPSPTARoadworks@mod.uk).

**Partner Briefing:** A briefing on the ABP which sets out the units and number of personnel moving, dates, facilities being provided and more has been prepared for partners and people in Wiltshire affected by the ABP. It will be issued shortly and will be available on Wiltshire Council’s MCI webpages. It aims to provide an authoritative statement on the ABP so that it is a source of facts on the programme.